

Claims

1. (Previously Amended) A system for providing notification of severe weather, the system comprising:
 - a transmitter configured to transmit at least one signal for the notification comprising type data indicating a type of severe weather and area designation data for a specific area comprising at least one member of a group consisting of sector data indicating a sector in which the severe weather is expected and city/county data indicating a city/county in which the severe weather is expected; and
 - a plurality of receivers each configured to receive and process the at least one signal and, if configured to cover an area corresponding to the specific area identified in the area designation data, to cause an alarm to be triggered for the type of severe weather for the specific area.
2. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising an emergency warning mechanism configured to activate the transmitter for transmitting the at least one signal and to active a siren when the transmitter is activated.
3. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the emergency warning mechanism comprises a control unit configured to activate the transmitter and the siren.
4. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the emergency warning mechanism is controlled by a local authority.
5. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising at least one authority to activate the transmitter, the authority comprising at least one member of a group consisting of a municipality in which the specific area is located and a county in which the specific area is located.
6. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein:
the transmitter further is configured to transmit a test signal at a regular interval; and
each of the receivers comprises a timer configured to time out in a period greater than the regular interval of the test signal, to generate a trouble alarm upon timing out, and to reset upon receiving the test signal.

7. (Previously Amended) A system for providing notification of severe weather for a specific area comprising:

a warning siren;

a transmitter configured to transmit a signal for the notification comprising weather sector data indicating the specific area in which the severe weather is expected and type data indicating a type of the severe weather; and

a plurality of receivers in the specific area tuned to a frequency transmitted by the transmitter, each programmed with receiver sector data corresponding to a geographic area and each configured to cause an alert to be triggered for the type of severe weather if the weather sector data matches the receiver sector data;

wherein the siren and the transmitter are activated by an entity authorized to provide the notification for the specific area.

8. (Cancelled) The system of claim 7, wherein the specific area is divided into sectors, and the signal comprises sector data indicating which of the sectors are to receive said notification.

9. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 7, wherein the receiver sector data for each receiver comprises a code for a location of the receiver.

10. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 7, further comprising a control unit configured to active the transmitter and the siren.

11. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 7, wherein:

the transmitter further is configured to transmit a test signal at a regular interval; and

each of the receivers comprises a timer configured to time out in a period greater than the regular interval of the test signal, to generate a trouble alarm upon timing out, and to reset upon receiving the test signal.

12. (Previously Amended) A system for selective notification of severe weather for a specific area comprising:

a warning siren;

a transmitter configured to transmit at least one signal for the notification, the signal comprising sector data indicating the specific area in which the severe weather is expected and type data indicating a type of the severe weather;

a control unit configured to activate the siren and the transmitter in response to an indication of the severe weather for the specific area; and
a plurality of receivers each configured to receive the signal and to cause an alarm to be triggered for the type of severe weather if the sector data indicates the receiver is to trigger activation of the alarm for the specific area.

13. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein:
the transmitter further is configured to transmit a test signal at a regular interval; and
each of the receivers comprises a timer configured to time out in a period greater than the regular interval of the test signal, to generate a trouble alarm upon timing out, and to reset upon receiving the test signal.

14. (Previously Amended) A method for selective notification of severe weather for a specific area comprising the steps of:

transmitting a signal for the notification comprising type data indicating a type of the severe weather and area designation data comprising at least one member of a group consisting of sector data indicating a sector in which the severe weather is expected and city/county data indicating a city/county in which the severe weather is expected; and

receiving the signal for at least one receiver and, in response, causing a warning alarm to be triggered for the type of weather if the at least one receiver is programmed with the area designation data.

15. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein:
the area designation data comprises a code indicating the specific area, and the at least one receiver is located in the specific area.

16. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 15, further comprising the step of:
transmitting, at a regular interval, a test signal, that prevents a trouble alarm in the at least one receiver from being generated if the test signal is received by the at least one receiver.

17. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 14, further comprising activating the transmitter from an authority in at least one member of a group comprising a county in which the specific area is located and a municipality in which the specific area is located.

18. (Previously Amended) A receiver for receiving a notification signal of severe weather for a specific area and a test signal, the notification signal comprising type data indicating a type of severe weather and area designation data indicating the specific area of the severe weather, the area designation data for the specific area comprising at least one member of a group consisting of sector data indicating a sector in which the severe weather is expected and city/county data indicating a city/county in which the severe weather is expected, the receiver comprising:

a timer configured to time out in a period greater than a regular interval within which the test signal is to be received, to generate a trouble alarm upon timing out, and to reset upon receiving the test signal; and

a decoder configured to decode the type data to determine the type of the severe whether, to decode the area designation data to determine if the receiver is configured to cause an alarm to be triggered for the specific area in which the severe whether is expected, and, if so configured, to cause the alarm to be triggered for the specific area indicated by the area designation data.

19. (Previously Amended) The receiver of claim 18, wherein the receiver is normally connected to an AC power source and a backup battery and can be powered down by disconnecting the AC power source and the battery.

20. (Previously Amended) The receiver of claim 18, wherein the receiver is tuned to receive the notification signal from a transmitter that is activated by an emergency warning mechanism controlled by a local authority.

21. (Previously Amended) The receiver of claim 18, wherein the receiver is tuned to receive the notification signal from a transmitter that is activated with a warning siren by an emergency warning mechanism controlled by a local authority.

22. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 21, wherein the local authority comprises an authority in at least one member of a group comprising a county in which the specific area is located and a municipality in which the specific area is located.

23. (Original) A method for triggering an alarm in response to notification, by a local authority, of severe weather in a specific area, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving the notification comprising a signal containing a system identification code, a type code, a city/county code, and a sector code;

- (a) checking the received system identification code to determine whether the signal is a valid transmission;
- (b) checking the received type code to determine whether the signal is a test signal or a severe weather warning;
- (c) continuing with step (h) if the signal is a test signal;
- (d) checking the received city/county code to determine whether the signal matches a corresponding pre-programmed code;
- (e) checking the received sector code to determine whether the signal matches a corresponding pre-programmed code;
- (f) generating a warning alarm if corresponding codes are found in steps (d) and (e), otherwise, ignoring the notification; and
- (g) generating a trouble alarm if the test signal has not been received within a predetermined interval; otherwise,
- (h) resetting a timer to the predetermined interval upon receiving the test signal to prevent the trouble alarm from being generated.